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LATAM PRESS ON SOVIET-CUBAN ANGOLA ROLE

ANNCR:

LATIN AMERICA'S PRESS IS REFLECTING DEEP CONCERN OVER
THE SOVIET-CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA. HERE ARE _____
AND _____ WITH SOME EXCERPTS FROM RECENT
EDITORIALS AND COLUMNS.

NARR:

IN LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, "EL DIARIO" COLUMNIST SAMUEL MENDOZA
SEES THE PRESENCE OF THOUSANDS OF WELL-ARMED CUBANS AS A
CAUSE FOR SERIOUS REFLECTION BY LATIN AMERICANS EVERYWHERE.
HE PUTS HIS CASE THIS WAY:

VOICE:

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE ARE FACED HERE WITH A
TRAINING EXERCISE AIMED AT NEW WARLIKE ADVENTURES IN OTHER
PARTS OF THE WORLD -- PERHAPS IN SOUTH AMERICA ITSELF."

NARR:

MISTER MENDOZA CALLS THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN
ANGOLA "OVERT AND CYNICAL," AND POINTS OUT THAT THEY ARE
SUPPORTING A MINORITY GROUP IN ANGOLA. AND HE ADDS:

VOICE:

"IT WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED FOR OUR COUNTRIES AND OUR
GOVERNMENTS TO PERMIT VIOLENCE OR WAR TO SERVE AS A BRIDGE
FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM -- BE IT RUSSIAN, CHINESE OR CUBAN
-- TO SET FOOT IN THIS CONTINENT THAT, AT THE PRESENT TIME
IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE A REAL INTEGRATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF ITS PEOPLE."

NARR:

IN ANOTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY -- ECUADOR -- GUAYAQUIL'S "EL TELEGRAFO" SEES CUBA'S ROLE AS THE SOVIET UNION'S COMBAT-SURROGATE IN ANGOLA AS A WARNING TO THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA. THE NEWSPAPER SAYS:

VOICE:

"IMAGINING THAT CUBA HAD CEASED TO BE INTERVENTIONIST, THE MAJORITY OF THE STATES OF THE NEW WORLD SUPPORTED THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON HAVANA'S COMMUNIST REGIME. NOW, THE INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA BY CUBAN TROOPS CONSTITUTES THE BEST PROOF THAT CASTROISM HAS NOT CHANGED AND THAT ITS CONDUCT IS DETERMINED BY THE SOVIET UNION -- THE VERY NATION THAT HAS IMPOSED THE INTRUSION ON DISTANT ANGOLA."

NARR:

THE GUAYAQUIL DAILY GOES ON TO NOTE THAT THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA THREATENS WORLD PEACE BY VIRTUE OF EXTENDING THE CIVIL WAR THERE TO INCLUDE OTHER NATIONS.

IN PANAMA CITY, THE DEAN OF THE PANAMANIAN PRESS, "LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA," SEES SOVIET LEADERS FACED WITH A THREE-SIDED DILEMMA THAT MAY PERSUADE THEM TO TAKE A MORE CONCILIATORY LINE WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA. THE THREE ELEMENTS ARE: THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE SOVIET UNION IS EXPERIENCING; MOSCOW'S NEED FOR AMERICAN GRAIN AS A RESULT OF CROP FAILURES IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE REPEATED WASHINGTON DEMANDS FOR A CESSATION TO THE OVERT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR. ALL THIS, THE PANAMANIAN DAILY BELIEVES, POINTS TO AN IRREVOCABLE FACT OF LIFE. AND IT CONCLUDES:

VOICE:

"AFTER ALL, THE SOVIET ECONOMY IS IN NO CONDITION TO CONTINUE POURING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF RUBLES INTO WARLIKE ADVENTURES OF VERY DOUBTFUL OUTCOME, EVEN IF THE ELEMENTS SUPPORTED BY MOSCOW SHOULD WIN."

NARR:

AND IN CENTRAL AMERICA, SAN PEDRO SULA'S EVENING DAILY "LA NOTICIA," DISCUSSES WHAT IT CALLS THE SOVIET UNION'S CYNICAL USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA. IN THE HONDURAN PAPER'S WORDS:

VOICE:

"THE SOVIET UNION IS USING THE CUBANS AS CANNON FODDER. THEY ARE LEAVING THEIR ISLAND -- NINETY MILES FROM THE COAST OF THE UNITED STATES -- FOR ANGOLA WITH THE SOLE AIM OF IMPEDING THE GENUINE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE -- A PEOPLE NOW THREATENED WITH PASSING FROM COLONIALISM TO THE TERRIFYING TYRANNY OF MARXISM-LENINISM."

JS/LP